

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a distribution of fluids, comprising:
a unitary substrate having a substrate body that includes a first substrate port and a second substrate port formed in a first surface and a first fluid passageway formed within the substrate body that extends in a first direction and fluidly connects the first substrate port to the second substrate port; and
a manifold having a manifold body that includes a first manifold port formed in a first surface, a second manifold port formed in a second surface that is transverse to the first surface, and a fluid passageway formed within the manifold body that fluidly connects the first manifold port to the second manifold port;
wherein the unitary substrate further includes a channel formed in the first surface of the substrate body that extends in a second direction, the channel being adapted to position the manifold within the channel so that the first surface of the substrate body and the first surface of the manifold body are aligned in a common plane.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first substrate port is adapted to receive a first fluid component and the second substrate port is adapted to receive a second fluid component that is distinct from the first fluid component.
3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the first and second substrate ports are disposed on a first side of the channel, and wherein the substrate body further includes a plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the substrate body, the plurality of mounting

apertures including at least one first mounting aperture disposed on the first side of the channel and at least one second mounting aperture disposed on a second side of the channel, the plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount the second fluid component in sealing engagement with the second substrate port and the first manifold port.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second substrate ports are disposed on a first side of the channel, the substrate body further including:

a third substrate port and a fourth substrate port formed in the first surface of the substrate body and disposed on a second side of the channel; and

a second fluid passageway extending in the first direction that fluidly connects the third substrate port to the fourth substrate port.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the substrate body further includes a plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the substrate body, the plurality of mounting apertures including at least one first mounting aperture disposed on the first side of the channel and at least one second mounting aperture disposed on the second side of the channel, the plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount a fluid component in sealing engagement with the second and third substrate ports and the first manifold port.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the plurality of mounting apertures includes no more than four mounting apertures, the four mounting apertures including two mounting apertures disposed on the first side of the channel and two mounting apertures disposed on the second side of the channel.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein at least one of the channel and the manifold body includes means for aligning the first manifold port with the second and third substrate ports.

8. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the first substrate port is adapted to receive a first fluid component and the second substrate port is adapted to receive a second fluid component that is distinct from the first fluid component.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the third substrate port is adapted to receive the second fluid component and the fourth substrate port is adapted to receive a third fluid component that is distinct from the first and second fluid components.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the substrate body further includes a plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the substrate body, the plurality of mounting apertures including at least one first mounting aperture disposed on the first side of the channel and at least one second mounting aperture disposed on the second side of the channel, the plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount the second fluid component in sealing engagement with the second and third substrate ports and the first manifold port.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the plurality of mounting apertures includes no more than four mounting apertures, the four mounting apertures including two mounting apertures disposed on the first side of the channel and two mounting apertures disposed on the second side of the channel.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the substrate body further includes: a fifth substrate port formed in the first surface of the substrate body and disposed on the first side of the channel;

a sixth substrate port disposed on the first side of the channel and formed in a second surface of the substrate body that is transverse to the first surface; and

a third fluid passageway extending in the first direction that fluidly connects the fifth substrate port to the sixth substrate port.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first fluid component comprises a two port valve that is in fluidly connected to the first and fifth substrate ports.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the second fluid component comprises a three port valve that is fluidly connected to the second and third substrate ports and the first manifold port.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the second direction is perpendicular to the first direction.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the channel includes a pair of sidewalls and a base, and wherein the base of the channel includes an aperture through which a rigid member can be inserted to remove the manifold from the channel.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the aperture is threaded and is adapted to receive a threaded rigid member to remove the manifold from the channel.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the unitary substrate is a first substrate, the system further comprising:

a second unitary substrate having a second substrate body that includes a first substrate port and a second substrate port formed in a first surface of the second substrate body and a first fluid passageway that extends in the first direction and fluidly connects the first and second substrate ports of the second substrate;

wherein the second unitary substrate further includes a channel formed in the first surface of the second substrate body that extends in the second direction and is adapted to position the manifold so that the first surface of the second substrate body and the first surface of the manifold body are aligned in the common plane.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the manifold includes a third manifold port formed in the first surface of the manifold body that is fluidly connected to the fluid passageway of the manifold.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein the channel in the first substrate is aligned, along the second direction, with the channel in the second unitary substrate.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 20, wherein:
the first and second substrate ports of the first substrate are disposed on a first side of the channel in the first substrate;

the first substrate body further includes a plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the first substrate body, the plurality of mounting apertures including at least one first mounting aperture disposed on the first side of the channel in the first substrate and at least one second mounting aperture disposed on a second side of the channel in the first substrate, the plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount a first fluid component in sealing engagement with the second substrate port of the first substrate and the first manifold port;

the first and second substrate ports of the second unitary substrate are disposed on a first side of the channel in the second unitary substrate; and

the second substrate body further includes a plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the second substrate body, the plurality of mounting apertures including at least one first mounting aperture disposed on the first side of the channel in the second unitary substrate and at least one second mounting aperture disposed on a second side of the channel in the second unitary substrate, the plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount a second fluid component in sealing engagement with the second substrate port of the second unitary substrate and the third manifold port.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the unitary substrate is a first substrate and the manifold is a first manifold, the system further comprising:

a second unitary substrate having a second substrate body that includes a first substrate port and a second substrate port formed in a first surface of the second unitary substrate body and a first fluid passageway that extends in the first direction and fluidly connects the first and second substrate ports of the second unitary substrate;

a second manifold having a second manifold body that includes a first manifold port formed in a first surface of the second manifold body, a second manifold port formed in a second surface of the second manifold body that is transverse to the first surface of the second manifold body, and a fluid passageway that fluidly connects the first and second manifold ports of the second manifold;

wherein the second unitary substrate further includes a channel formed in the first surface of the second substrate body that extends in the second direction and is adapted to position the second manifold so that the first surface of the second substrate body and the first surface of the second manifold body are aligned in the common plane.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the first fluid passageway of the first substrate is aligned, along the first direction, with the first fluid passageway of the second unitary substrate.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the first and second substrate ports of the first substrate are disposed on a first side of the channel in the first substrate, the first substrate further including:

a third substrate port and a fourth substrate port formed in the first surface of the first substrate body and disposed on a second side of the channel; and

a second fluid passageway extending in the first direction that fluidly connects the third substrate port to the fourth substrate port of the first substrate.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24, wherein the second substrate port of the first substrate is adapted to receive a first fluid component and the fourth substrate port of the first

substrate is adapted to receive a second fluid component that is distinct from the first fluid component.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein the first substrate body further includes a first plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the first substrate body, the first plurality of mounting apertures including at least one first mounting aperture disposed on the first side of the channel in the first substrate and at least one second mounting aperture disposed on a second side of the channel in the first substrate, the first plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount the first fluid component in sealing engagement with the second and third substrate ports of the first substrate and the first manifold port of the first manifold.

27. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the first plurality of mounting apertures includes no more than four mounting apertures, the four mounting apertures including two mounting apertures disposed on the first side of the channel and two mounting apertures disposed on the second side of the channel.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein:
the first substrate body further includes a second plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the first substrate body and disposed on the second side of the channel in the first substrate, the second plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount the second fluid component in sealing engagement with the fourth substrate port of the first substrate; and
the second substrate body further includes a third plurality of mounting apertures formed in the first surface of the second substrate body, the third plurality of mounting apertures being arranged to mount the second fluid component in sealing engagement with the first substrate port of the second unitary substrate.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the first fluid component comprises a three port valve, and wherein the second fluid component comprises a mass flow controller.

30. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising:
a third substrate having a third substrate body that includes a first substrate port and a second substrate port formed in a first surface of the third substrate body and a first fluid passageway that extends in the first direction and fluidly connects the first and second substrate ports of the third substrate;

wherein the third substrate further includes a channel formed in the first surface of the third substrate body that extends in the second direction and is adapted to position the first manifold so that the first surface of the third substrate body and the first surface of the first manifold body are aligned in the common plane.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, further comprising:
a fourth substrate having a fourth substrate body that includes a first substrate port and a second substrate port formed in a first surface of the fourth substrate body and a first fluid passageway that extends in the first direction and fluidly connects the first and second substrate ports of the fourth substrate;

wherein the fourth substrate further includes a channel formed in the first surface of the fourth substrate body that extends in the second direction and is adapted to position the second manifold so that the first surface of the fourth substrate body and the first surface of the second manifold body are aligned in the common plane.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the second direction is perpendicular to the first direction.

33. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the second direction is perpendicular to the first direction.

34. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the channel and the manifold body includes means for aligning the first manifold port with the second substrate port.

35. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the channel includes a pair of sidewalls and a base, wherein at least one sidewall of the pair of sidewalls includes at least one first groove, and wherein the manifold includes at least one second groove, the system further comprising:

at least one pin to align the first and second grooves so that the first manifold port is aligned with the second substrate port.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein the at least one pin has a length that when inserted into the first and second grooves, does not extend above the common plane.

37. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second substrate ports includes means for detecting whether a leak free seal is achieved.

38. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the channel includes a pair of sidewalls and a base, wherein at least one sidewall of the pair of sidewalls includes at least one first recess extending into the base and having a first edge, and wherein the manifold includes at least one second recess terminating in a second edge that is complementary to the at least one first recess, the system further comprising:

at least one fastener to engage the first and second edges.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the fastener does not extend above the common plane when engaged with the first and second edges.

40. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein one of the manifold body and the channel includes a pair of alignment apertures having a shape, and the other of the manifold body and the channel includes a pair of alignment posts having a shape that is complementary to the pair of alignment apertures, a depth of the respective apertures being greater than a height of the respective alignment posts.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein the pair of alignment apertures and the pair of alignment posts are constructed and arranged such that when mated, the first manifold port is aligned in the first direction with the second substrate port.

Claims 42-88 (Canceled)